

# sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Grifols' campus in Clayton.

## Gov. Cooper Announces Major Expansion by Grifols Bringing 300 New Jobs to Johnston County

Grifols Therapeutics, the global healthcare company, will expand its North Carolina operations with a new \$351.6 million capital investment, creating 300 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (June 9). The company will construct a specialized blood plasma facility and logistics center at its Clayton campus in Johnston County.

"Companies like Grifols continue to choose expansion in North Carolina because our workforce can meet their needs of this important facility," said **Governor Cooper**. "During this public health crisis, we have seen the value of manufacturing close to home and this expansion means new, life-saving medicines will be manufactured in Clayton."

Grifols Therapeutics will expand its operations in North Carolina with a new plasma fractionation facility and logistics center at its Johnston County campus. Fractionation is the process of separating different components in blood plasma, to produce proteins that are essential for patients who face sometimes life-threatening conditions.

Grifols is also working to develop a plasma-based COVID-19 treatment. Convalescent plasma from donors will be manufactured into a hyper-immune therapy specific to COVID-19 at the company's manufacturing campus in Clayton.

"Today is a very exciting day for Grifols. We are extremely



Prime Beverage selects a location in Kannapolis.

## Co-Packing Company Prime Beverage Group to Add 231 Jobs in Cabarrus County

Prime Beverage Group, a new contract beverage manufacturer, will create 231 new jobs in Cabarrus County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (June 9). The company will invest \$68 million to establish their first manufacturing facility in Kannapolis.

"North Carolina is the ideal location to create new products and serve new markets," said **Governor Cooper**. "Prime Beverage Group's first manufacturing facility in our state showcases our readiness to grow jobs and move our state's economy forward."

Prime Beverage Group is a beverage co-packing company. The company contracts with brand name beverage companies to mix and package their canned drinks. Formed by beverage industry leaders, Prime Beverage will establish a full-service state-of-the-art production facility in Kannapolis. The 300,000 square foot facility will include a warehouse and high-speed manufacturing lines to produce various high-quality products. With new packaging technology, Prime Beverage can fill up to 1,500 cans per minute.

"Utilizing the latest innovations in technology and high-speed equipment, Prime Beverage Group will bring much needed capacity at the highest efficiencies with the lowest cost to the co-packing market," said **Jeremy Lantz, CEO of Prime Beverage Group**. "The decision to locate here in Cabarrus County is a reflection of the community of Kannapolis and the workforce that lives here and in the surrounding communities. Prime Beverage Group is excited to make Kannapolis our home."

proud to expand our manufacturing operations in the state of North Carolina," said **Doug Burns, President of Grifols Therapeutics**. "True to Grifols mission of improving the health and wellbeing of patients, our new state-of-the-art fractionation facility will help meet the growing demand for plasma-derived medicines in the United States and around the world."

Overall average salary for the new positions will be \$69,032. The current average wage in Johnston County is \$40,734. The state and local area will see an economic impact of more than \$20.7 million from this new payroll each year.

"It's a challenging time in our state and our nation as the coronavirus pandemic impacts our lives, but today's decision confirms the fundamentals of the North Carolina economy remain strong," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "I welcome Grifols' vote of confidence to expand their business in our state."

A Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) will support Grifols' project. If it remains in compliance over 12 years, the company could receive \$5,161,500, paid over those years. The project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$1.72 billion over that time.

In addition, up to \$1.7 million could go into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account to support economic development projects in rural areas of the state.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), [Johnston County](#), the [Town of Clayton](#), and [Johnston County's Economic Development Office](#).



## Governor Cooper Announces Nearly 400 New Jobs in Durham as Multi-Cancer Early Detection Company Chooses New Laboratory Location

GRAIL, Inc., an innovative healthcare company pioneering a test that detects more than 50 cancers with a single blood draw, will invest \$100 million and over time create 398 new jobs in Durham, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 2. The project will bring a new state-of-the-art laboratory facility with office and warehouse space to North Carolina's Research Triangle Park.

"Even in tough economic times, companies like GRAIL see that North Carolina is ready to support the life sciences sector with a strong workforce," said **Governor Cooper**. "North Carolina had a solid foundation for job growth before the virus, and that will make the road to recovery faster in the coming months."

GRAIL, headquartered in Menlo Park, California, has developed a testing approach supported by evidence from a population-scale clinical study program believed to be the largest ever conducted in genomic medicine. GRAIL's team of leading scientists, technologists, and clinicians are working urgently to revolutionize cancer detection.

"Prime Beverage Group is poised to lead the consumer beverages industry, and we welcome them as the newest member of our state's manufacturing community," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The company's forward-looking market strategy will find in North Carolina's economic landscape all the ingredients necessary for success."

Among the positions Prime Beverage will add in Kannapolis are technicians, sales, operations, and managerial personnel. The average annual salary for the new positions could exceed \$65,900, as compared to the current average annual wage in Cabarrus County of \$38,892.

Prime Beverage's project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) worth a potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$2,430,000, spread over 12 years. Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by nearly \$1.2 billion. The JDIG could also bring as much as \$810,000 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account.

The [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) worked closely with the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) in leading a collaborative state effort to support the company's expansion. Other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Rowan-Cabarrus Community College](#), [Cabarrus County](#), [Cabarrus Economic Development](#), the [City of Kannapolis](#), and [Duke Energy](#).

## Metals Company Will Launch Multi-Million Dollar Expansion in Shelby

Ames Copper Group, a joint venture of Prime Materials Recovery, Inc. (PMR) and the Cunext Group, will create 46 jobs in Cleveland County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 4. The company will invest at least \$26.3 million with the expansion of its copper manufacturing facility located in Shelby.

"This is good news for Cleveland County, and the City of Shelby," said **Governor Cooper**. "Ames Copper Group knows our state's strong workforce and looked to North Carolina for this next phase of growth."

Ames Copper Group plans to invest more than \$50 million in infrastructure, equipment and working capital over the course of the project to build a new copper smelter plant, which will recycle and purify copper materials. Currently, PMR's affiliate IMC Metals America employs a 76-person workforce that

"We want to thank Governor Cooper, Secretary of Commerce Anthony Copeland, and our local Durham partners for their leadership and support of GRAIL's expansion to North Carolina, known for its large pool of skilled talent and innovative spirit that is critical to the success of our mission to detect cancer early and save lives," said **Uplaksh Kumar, Senior Vice President of Strategic Operations and Scale at GRAIL**. "This expansion is an important step forward in making our pioneering, multi-cancer early detection blood test widely available to patients and healthcare providers across the country."

The unmet need for early cancer detection is significant. The five cancers with existing screening recommendations in the U.S. today represent less than 50 percent of the cancers in individuals 50 to 79 years of age. Current screening critically improves cancer outcomes, but nearly 80 percent of cancer deaths are attributable to cancers with no recommended screening tests, according to GRAIL estimates.

Although wages will vary depending on position, the average salary will be in line with the current average annual wage in Durham County of \$71,756.

"The coronavirus pandemic heightens our awareness of the critical role science and research play in keeping us healthy," said **Secretary Copeland**. "North Carolina and our culture of innovation will support GRAIL as it brings hope to many people with its innovative approach to early cancer detection."

A Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) of up to \$5.2 million to the company was awarded for the project. Over the course of 12 years, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$1.2 billion. As much as \$1.7 million could go into the state's Utility Account as well, in order to help more rural areas in the state build their infrastructure.

Partnering with the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System and its N.C. BioNetwork](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center, Durham County](#), the [Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#), the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#), [North Carolina Central University](#), [North Carolina State University](#), [Duke University](#), [Alamance Community College](#), [Durham Tech](#), [Wake Tech](#), the [Research Triangle Regional Partnership](#), and [Duke Energy](#).

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## LEVERAGE NC to Provide Cities and Towns with Economic Development Training and Resources

The N.C. League of Municipalities (NCLM), in partnership with the N.C. Department of Commerce and its Main Street and Rural Planning Center, the N.C. Downtown Development Association, and the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Historic Preservation Office, is proud to announce Leverage NC, a resource designed to further local government economic development efforts. Through a carefully curated catalog of educational offerings and expert resources, Leverage NC will provide cities and towns statewide the tools needed to strengthen local economies and support enhanced business opportunity back at home.

Over the next year, Leverage NC will roll out a set of educational resources designed to address the most immediate issues facing communities and local economies. Topics will include post COVID-19 development, funding and partnerships,

manufactures copper for wiring and lightning rods, as well as applications in the defense industry.

"The manufacturing industry is critical to our success as a nation, and currently, this operation will be the only custom smelter in the United States," said Bernard Schilberg, CEO of Prime Materials Recovery. "We are excited to be able to build upon our company's successes and expertise, and bring resources back to the United States that create more opportunities for our economy to prosper."

"As North Carolina's economy returns to growth mode, our existing companies are leading the way with new hiring and investment," **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** said. "Ames Copper Group is a great example of the kind of confident, forward-looking businesses that thrive in our state."

Among the positions Ames Copper Group will create are casting workers, maintenance personnel, supervisors and administrative staff. The average annual salary for the new positions could exceed \$51,700, with a payroll impact of more than \$2.3 million per year for the local economy. The current average annual wage in Cleveland County is \$40,019.

A performance-based grant of \$150,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help locate Ames Copper Group to Cleveland County. The One N.C. Fund provides financial assistance to local governments to help attract economic investment and to create jobs. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One N.C. grants require a matching grant from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

The [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) worked closely with the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) in leading a collaborative state effort to support the company's expansion. Other key partners in the project include the [N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Cleveland Community College](#), [Cleveland County](#), the [City of Shelby](#), the [Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership](#), and [Duke Energy](#).

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## On Our Radar

- [Comment Periods Open for Two Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\) Items, including Upcoming Public Hearing](#) - (N.C. Commerce)
- [In Triad Economic development group names new key executive](#) - (Triad Business Journal - June 9)

organizational development, project development after a disaster, and strategy development for a new normal.

Cities and towns are the economic engine of North Carolina with 80 percent of all jobs and 75 percent of all retail sales in the state occurring within municipal limits. Cities and towns make investments that attract businesses to North Carolina, grow jobs, and create unmatched quality of life.

"Both at the League and across Main Street and rural communities statewide, we know that we are stronger together," said **Paul Meyer, Executive Director of the NCLM**. "Our cities vary in size, culture, geography and economic situation. And through their unique experiences, there are countless lessons to be learned about strategy and growth. Leverage NC will bring these resources together, assembling the best minds and most useful trainings our 540 cities and towns have to offer."

"The Main Street & Rural Planning Center at the N.C. Commerce Department's Rural Division is proud to boost our efforts to bring economic development opportunities to communities across the state," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony Copeland**. "Our partnership with the League of Municipalities will enable us to further expand our outreach to local leaders and elected officials."

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## N.C. in the News

- [Prime Beverage Group to add 231 jobs in Cabarrus County](#) (WBTV - June 9)
- [Opportunity Zones Continue Development Through Pandemic](#) (Spectrum News - June 9)
- ['N.C. Ports Sets Sail With Big Opportunities](#) (WilmingtonBiz - June 5)

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### About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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